

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06518 141619Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2603

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6518

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CO

SUBJECT: EMBASSY'S ROLE IN CABRANES AFFAIR

1. MAJOR BOGOTA NEWSPAPERS AND TV FEATURED YESTERDAY AND TODAY AN INTERVIEW WHICH MAYOR FERRE OF MIAMI GAVE TO A COLOMBIAN NEWS MAGAZINE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CABRANES AFFAIR. WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THE INTERVIEW AND THE LOCAL COMMENTARIES IT HAS PROVOKED BY SEPTEL. MUCH OF WHAT FERRE SAYS IS BY NOW FAMILIAR FROM HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS AND LETTERS, WHICH HAVE ALSO BEEN PUBLICIZED HERE PREVIOUSLY. THERE IS HOWEVER ONE NEW TWIST IN THE INTERVIEW WHICH IS OF PERSONAL CONCERN TO ME. FERRE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IN THE CABRANES AFFAIR "IT WAS NOT ONLY THE GOC THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE SINCE IT APPEARS THAT STATE DEPT OFFICIALS, BEGINNING WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE EMBASSY IN BOGOTA, INTERVENED IN A NEGATIVE WAY AND SIMPLY DID NOT DO ALL THEY COULD HAVE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE CONFLICT."

2. UNTIL NOW WE HAVE BEEN ABLE WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY TO FEND OFF LOCAL PRESS QUERIES PROMPTED BY THE CABRANES AFFAIR, AND ESPECIALLY BY FERRE'S STATEMENTS. IN MAINTAINING A SILENT, STONEY ATTITUDE HERE WE HAVE BEEN HELPED CONSIDERABLY BY THE DEPT'S OWN STATEMENTS IN DEFENSE OF THE HANDLING OF THE NOMINATION. FERRE'S NEW FOCUSING OF HIS ATTACKS ON THE EMBASSY, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, MAKES OUR POSITION LESS EASY. WE WOULD AGAIN BE AIDED SUBSTANTIALLY BY A FURTHER STATEMENT FROM THE DEPT, PARTICULARLY ONE WHICH RESPONDED TO FERRE'S INSINUATIONS CONCERNING OUR ACTIONS HERE IN BOGOTA. WE WILL READILY UNDERSTAND IT HOWEVER IF THE DEPT INSTEAD CONCLUDES THAT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LET FERRE'S LATEST STATEMENT PASS WITHOUT COMMENT. IN SUCH A CASE, THOUGH, I WOULD LIKE

TO BE ASSURED THAT THE DEPT DOES NOT SHARE FERRE'S VIEW OF
THE EMBASSY'S ROLE IN THIS AFFAIR. WHILE WE ALL OF COURSE
HOPE THAT THIS WILL SOON CEASE TO BE A LIVE ISSUE, I DO NOT
YET SEE ANY CLEAR SIGN THAT MAYOR FERRE IS PREPARED TO DROP THE
MATTER. INDEED WE HAVE RECEIVED PRESS REPORTS HERE OF A POSSIBLE
CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES,
I CANNOT SIMPLY BRUSH OFF FERRE'S LATEST JAB.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-C, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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